

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

At the outset, and to clarify any confusion, it is respectfully submitted that the paper that should be considered as the last one submitted by the Applicants is the one in response to the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2005. This last paper was mailed by the Applicants on May 20, 2005. There appears to be another paper mailed by the Applicants on May 20, 2005, which was in response to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on April 29, 2005.

In the outstanding Office Action mailed on May 27, 2005, a new title was required. In response, the title has been amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 12 and 16 were objected to for certain informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the noted informalities were dealt with in the last paper submitted by the Applicants responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2005, where for example "and" was changed to

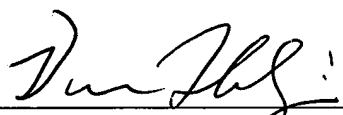
--an-- on line 3 of claims 12 and 16. Further, claims 12 and 16 were amended in the last paper submitted by the Applicants responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2005 to clarify that claim 12 is directed to a decoder, while claim 16 is directed to an encoder. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 12 and 16 is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-6 under the statutory type (35 U.S.C. §101) of double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,341. In response, claims 5-6 have been canceled without prejudice.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 7-25 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,341. In response, it is respectfully pointed out that a terminal disclaimer was submitted to overcome this rejection in the last paper filed by the Applicants responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 3, 2005. Accordingly, withdrawal of this obviousness-type double patenting rejection to claims 7-25 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
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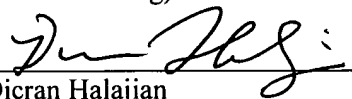
**THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP**  
Applied Technology Center  
111 West Main Street  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
Tel: (631) 665-5139  
Fax: (631) 665-5101

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